

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel Claim 23 50 that its limitations may be incorporated into Claim 22.

Please amend Claims 22, 26, and 27 to read as follows:

22. (Amended) A method for detecting cancer in a subject comprising:

identifying the association between a fibrinogen degradation product (FDP) and common oncogenic proteolytic processes in said subject; contacting a biological sample obtained from said subject with a monoclonal antibody that binds to a fibrinogen degradation product (FDP) epitope of the beta chain of fibrinogen having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO 1; and determining the presence or absence of said FDP using an enzyme-linked immunoassay, wherein fibrin, fibrinogen and fibrinogen fragments D and B are not detected.

26. (Amended) The method according to claim 25 wherein said [animal] mammal is a human.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 22 wherein [in] said biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, cervical secretions, bronchial aspirates, sputum, saliva, feces, synovial fluid and cerebrospinal fluid.